

Theory of tectonic plates

I. How continents move

- A. Lithosphere

Outer layer of earth

- B. Asthenosphere

Mantel layer beneath the lithosphere

II. Tectonic plates

- A. Earthquake
- B. Volcanoes

III. Types of plate boundaries

- A. Divergent boundaries

Boundary between plates that are moving away from each other

- B. Convergent boundaries

The boundary between plates that are colliding

- C. Transform boundaries

Boundary between plates that are sliding past each other horizontally

IV. Causes of plate motion

- A. Mantel convection

Heated mantle material rises through cooler material. Cooler material sinks down and heats up this current drags the tectonic plate with.

- B. Ridge push

Cooling rock sinks, the asthenosphere below it exerts a force called ridge push

- C. Slab pull

Dense lithosphere subduct into the asthenosphere. The leading edge pulls the rest along.

- D. Convection

Transfer of heat through fluids